



TOWN OF TEWKSBURY

COUNCIL ON AGING / SENIOR CENTER

175 CHANDLER STREET
TEWKSBURY, MASSACHUSETTS 01876

FRONT DESK (978) 640-4480
FAX (978) 640-4483

ROSE McKENNA, CHAIRMAN
VIRGINIA DESMOND, VICE CHAIRMAN

ASHLEY STUART, MS, LSW- DIRECTOR
astuart@tewbksbury-ma.gov

December 22, 2014

FY16 Budget Narrative

The Council on Aging's mission is "to enhance the lives of our Senior Citizens by identifying their needs, developing programs and activities to meet those needs, encouraging community involvement and providing the resources needed to live an independent and enriched quality of life." Areas of focus include but are not limited to: socialization, recreation, nutrition, exercise, wellness, education, emotional support, intergenerational programming, mobility, advocacy, crisis intervention and serving our homebound elders. All of this is made possible by staff, members of the Council on Aging Board and the Senior Center's countless number of volunteers.

The Council on Aging is always looking to improve upon the services and activities it provides to the older residents of Tewksbury. Therefore, the department is requesting just a few small changes to the budget for FY16. One is the addition of funding for maintenance supplies, which is currently supported by the Council on Aging's revolving account. The idea is to free the revolving account of all building related expenses so that funding may be used to increase programming. Other changes include the addition of the director's cell phone in "communications" and a slight increase in utilities to compensate for the current shortage. Lastly, the department is requesting additional funding for out-of-town travel. Staff will be reimbursed for mileage acquired through outreach and continuing education.

Comprehensive outreach services were introduced to the Council on Aging during FY14-15 and efforts for expansion will continue in FY16. Outreach occurs both at the Senior Center and out in the community. It connects seniors with available the services and resources needed to improve wellness and quality of life. According to the 2010 Federal Census there are 6,128 seniors in the Town of Tewksbury and approximately 700 of those utilize the Senior Center. Numbers show that there are innumerable seniors throughout the community who are not accessing the help they need. As a result the Council on Aging's top priority for FY16 is to introduce a part-time outreach worker. At 15-18 hours per week and \$16-18 per hour, approximately \$12,480-\$16,848 would be needed to fund this position. The outreach worker would be instrumental in the day to day operations of the Senior Center and would bridge the gap to our homebound seniors.

Sincerely,

Ashley Stuart, MS, LSW- Council on Aging Director